

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

CU-02 IO-11 SY-05 /083 W

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R 091123Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL KADUNA

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3238

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0033

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PORS, NI, AO

SUBJECT: DAILY TIMES REPORT ON STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN KADUNA

REF: KADUNA 031

1. RATHER AGITATED ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WHO COMMANDED DETACHMENT AT CONSULATE YESTERDAY CAME TO SEE ME THIS MORNING WITH COPY OF JANUARY 9 DAILY TIMES HE HAD OBTAINED AT KADUNA AIRPORT. (HIS COPY EVIDENTLY DIFFERENT EDITION OF TIMES AS MINE HAD NO COVERAGE OF DEMONSTRATION.) HE WAS CONCERNED AT TIMES FRONT PAGE STORY ALLEGING THAT CONSULATE FLAG AND OFFICE PICTURES OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WERE TORN DOWN AND BURNED BY STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS WHO "STORMED" CONSULATE. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FEARED STIFF ENQUIRIES FROM FMG LAGOS, ESPECIALLY POLICE IG, AS POLICE HERE HAD REPORTED (TRUTHFULLY) THAT DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN PEACEFUL.

2. I CALMED HIM DOWN BY FULLY AGREEING WITH HIM THAT TIMES STORY WAS SILLY AND BY SHOWING HIM COPY OF LETTER I DISPATCHED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO COMMISSIONER OF POLICE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR EFFECTIVE POLICE HANDLING OF DEMONSTRATION AND COMMENDING ASSISTANT
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COMMISSIONER'S CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS.

3. LATER, I RECEIVED CALL FROM DAILY TIMES MAN HERE. HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT AT CONSULATE YESTERDAY AND HAD RELIED ON ACCOUNTS GIVEN HIM BY UNNAMED COLLEAGUES WHICH HE PASSED TO LAGOS. TIMES MAN SAID POLICE WERE DENYING TIMES ALLEGATIONS AND ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION. I TOLD HIM THAT TIMES STORY HAD GONE CONSIDERABLY BEYOND WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED, THAT DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN PEACEFUL AND THAT NO RPT NO CONSULATE PROPERTY HAD BEEN BURNED OR DAMAGED. HE THANKED ME AND MUMBLED SOMETHING ABOUT INFORMING LAGOS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE TIMES STORY, IN ITSELF, MERELY ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SHODDY REPORTING, LURID DESCRIPTION COULD, ONE SUPPOSES, STIMULATE HOTHEADS HERE OR ELSEWHERE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR PATRIOTISM BY ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS -- PERHAPS LESS PEACEFUL THAN YESTERDAY'S.
BURKE

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